

# **Why Harmony, not integrity? Character building and Happiness in Javanese Perspectives**

[Moordiningsih@ums.ac.id](mailto:Moordiningsih@ums.ac.id)

Center of Islamic and Indigenous Psychology  
Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta, Indonesia

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- This paper explores the important characters are transferred by parents to their children in Javanese culture. These characters are the most important characters that will support the perceived happiness of children in the future. The prominent characters in Javanese culture are obedient character (manut) and lack of discipline. This study also describes the relationship obedient (manut) and indiscipline characters in the dimension of happiness in Javanese culture. This study was conducted using qualitative approach, providing an open ended questionnaire to 274 employees at the college, Surakarta, Central Java Indonesia. Data analysis was conducted by categorizing the main theme and calculates the frequency of the most important themes. The results showed that in Javanese culture, many parents prior to deliver character of harmony (make a good relationship with another people) rather than character of honesty (integrity) or discipline

# abstract

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*Don't ever let someone tell you that you can't do something. Not even me. You got a dream, you gotta protect it. When people can't do something themselves, they're gonna tell you that you can't do it. You want something, go get it. Period.*

Will Smith~the Pursuit of  
Happyness film

# The Pursuit of Happyness

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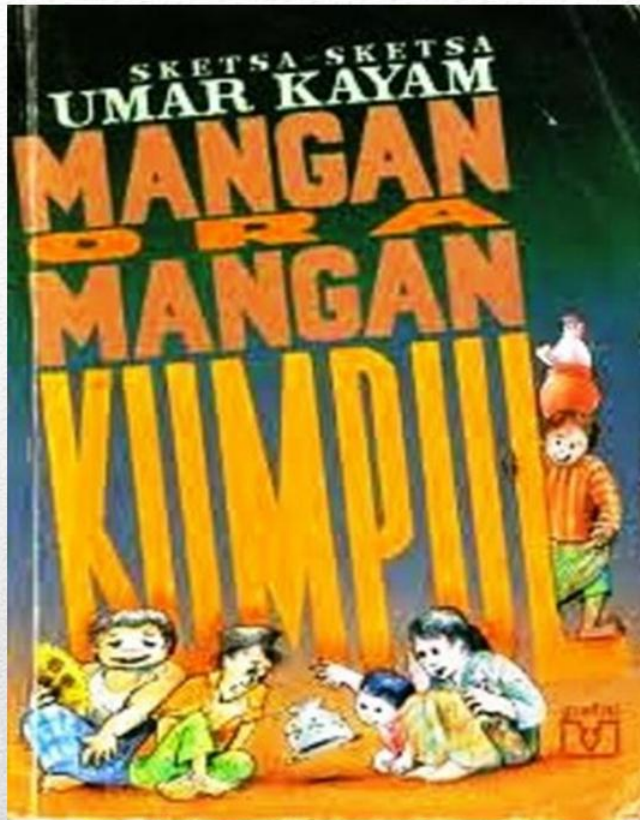
Tak perlu seseorang yang sempurna,  
cukup temukan  
orang yang selalu membuatmu  
bahagia  
& membuatmu berarti lebih dari  
siapapun.

BJ. Habibie~film

**Find someone who always make you  
Happy and meaningful....**

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Mangan ora mangan Kumpul

Umar Kayam ~ book

**Being Together is important thing  
for Javanese: ~ “*ayem tentrem*”**

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- Indonesia is a beautiful country, big population (human resources), belief in religion, Trust to benevolence and charismatic leader, having positive potential character on mutual-help (*gotong royong*).
- > < vs
- Jam Karet: coming late, indiscipline behavior
- Tawuran : student brawl, aggression and anarchy behavior
- Manutan : Obedient, easy to directed/educated (+), tend to submissive, being follower (-)
- Distrust to Politician: corruption, lack of competence and lack of Integrity
- Un-employment: lack of self respect, Failure in education and did not find the right job.

# **Social phenomena & social problem : challenge for scientist ...**

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- a behavioral component, habit.
- Habits seem to imply automatic behaviors that are learned through simple repetition.
- Habits as regular patterns of behavior that are done for the right reason, on the proper occasion, *experiencing the appropriate pleasures*. (Aristotle)

# Character~

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- Start from Family
- School
- Social Environment (culture)



- Good relation:
- 1) God ;
- 2) self/intrapersonal ;
- 3) interpersonal;
- 4) world.

# Character building

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- Every individual has a set point of happiness, which is close to neutrality, that changes for short periods of time, reflecting life circumstances, but eventually returns to neutrality (Positive Psychology)
- Contrasting this view, studies show that different individuals have different set happiness point, and most people claim their usual state of happiness is above neutral.
- Certain life events and circumstances can lastingly improve or decrease an individual's happiness set point (Diener, Lucas, & Scollon, 2006).
- Martin Seligman (2002) says that individual happiness is a reflection of each individual's set happiness points, life circumstances, and factors under voluntary control

# Happiness

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- What is the important character that educated by your parents and make you happy?
- What is the important character that you will educate your children and make them happy?



# Research Questions...

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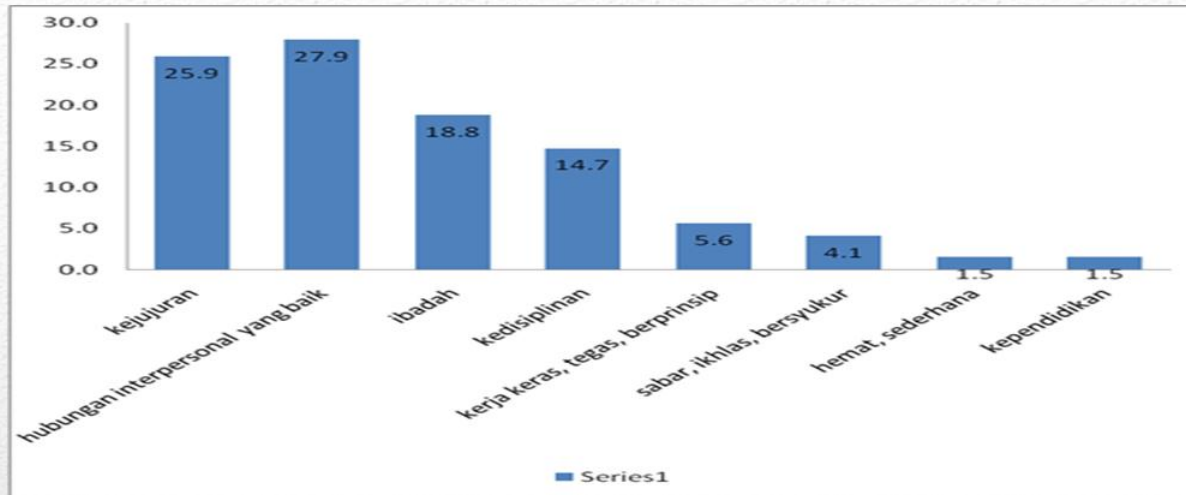


- Open ended questionnaire  
(developed by Moordiningsih, 2012)
- Respondent: 274 educational staff (54,6% male, 44,4% female)
- Moslem, Javanese, Age (M = 37,4)
- Rural (47,8 %) ; Urban (52,2%)
- the average standard of living
- Income/month:
  - less than 2,000,000 IDR (47,4 %)
  - 2,000,000 IDR – 5,000,000 IDR (29,5%)
  - > 5,000,000 IDR (5,3%)
- Data Analysis: content analysis, data-text categorization

# Method

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RESULT (1)

**What is the important character that educated by your parents and make you happy?**

**1) Maintain good interpersonal relationship (27, 9 %)**

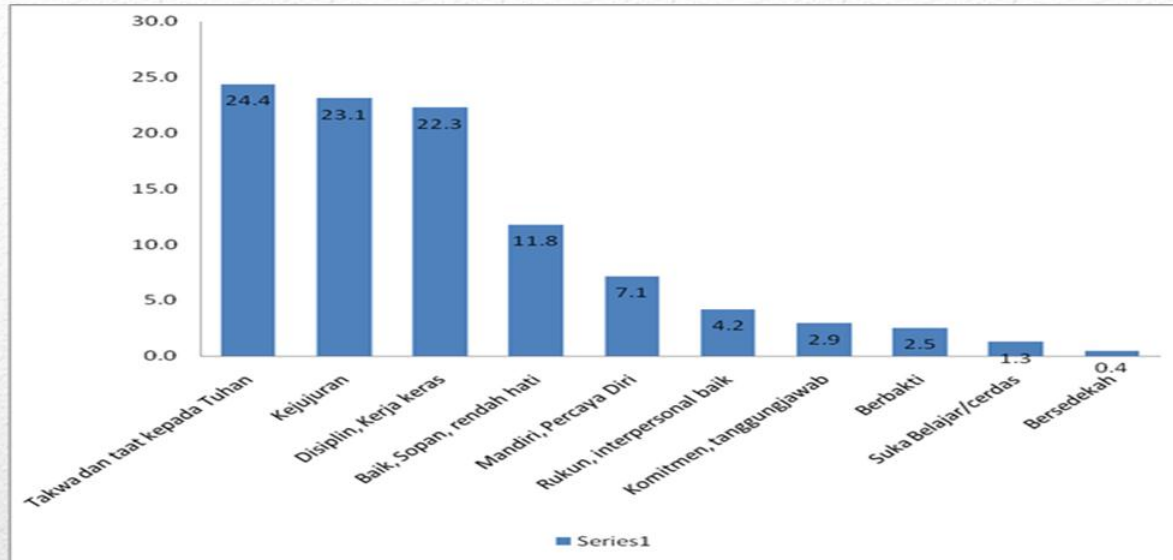
**2) honesty (25,9 %)**

**3) keep praying (18,8 %)**

**4) discipline (14,7 %)**

**5) work hard (5,6 %)**





**What is the important character that you will educate your children and make them happy?**

- 1) *Taqwa*, obedience to God (24,4 %)**
  - 2) Honesty (23,1 %)**
  - 3) Discipline, work hard (22,3 %)**
  - 4) Benevolence (11,8 %)**
  - 5) Self Confidence, Autonomy (7,1 %)**
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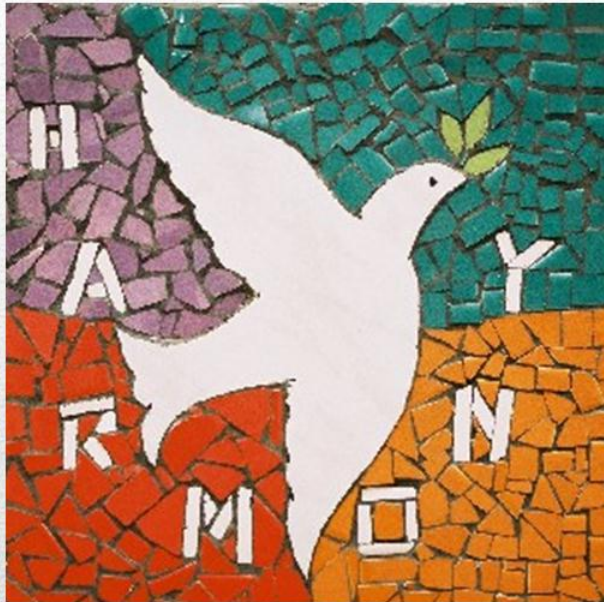


- Period of TIME:
- Change the parent's orientation on character that will make their children happy
- Present: Maintain Social Relationship = become HARMONY
- Future: Maintain God Relationship, Honesty, Discipline, Benevolence = become INTREGITY and HARMONY.

# Discussion

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# Thank you

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